

27



**Written Testimony of
Lee Telke, Executive Director
Towing & Recovery Professionals of Connecticut**

HB 5290, An Act Revising Motor Vehicle Laws

**Friday, February 27, 2014
Transportation Committee**

Good morning Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrera, Senator Boucher, Representative Scribner and the distinguished members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony on House Bill 5290, An Act Revising Motor Vehicle Laws. My name is Lee Telke and I am the Executive Director of the Towing & Recovery Professionals of Connecticut (TRPC). Tim Vibert is with me, he is the President of TRPC. TRPC is composed of nearly 200 towing professionals who are licensed dealers and repairers. We are composed of small businessmen who are trying to improve the quality of life in our state.

The Department of Motor Vehicles is the licensing agency that regulates our industry. We understand DMV's desire to obtain the necessary information to regulate our industry but House Bill 5290 will create unnecessary hardships for the small business owner. Therefore we most respectfully request the following changes:

Delete Section 14 and Section 17. These sections remove the three days that we have to produce records, in a written format, that we maintain electronically. Under this legislation, DMV would like these records produced on demand during the licensees' business hours on the same day of such request. Most of our business owners are working owners. They are not businesses with office managers; they are often small family owned operations that depend on maintaining a daily profit margin in order to keep their doors open. Often the records that DMV is seeking are kept in storage, may be at an accountant's office, may be stored offsite or many other possibilities. To expect a working business owner to interrupt their day to find a written record is unnecessary. The current three days work well for the licensees and we are not aware of any problems for DMV to obtain all the requested documents. If adopted these sections will most certainly cost the owner time and money, inconvenience our customers, and disrupt accident clearance and highway openings.

Modify Section 19. Under current law, the tow company is required to notify the police department that it has a vehicle in custody within two hours of the tow. This legislation proposes that within 48-hours of receiving the information from the tower, the police department be required to place the vehicle on a national informational law enforcement

network (NCIC) and the Connecticut system (COLLECT). In addition the responsibility for owner and lienholder notification within 48-hours by certified mail should lie with the police as the tow company has no access to the information on any vehicle bearing out of state plates. Section 19 seeks to place the burden of notifying the owner of the vehicle upon the tow company. However, the tow company does not have access to the ownership information and therefore compliance with this change would not be possible. We support this proposal with the appropriate changes.